

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-16 and 18-31 are now presented for examination. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 have been amended. Claims 4, 11 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 20-31 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 24 and 28 are the independent claims.

Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lack of enabling disclosure. The above amendments change the term “magnitude” to –level--. This is supported in the specification at least at page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 16. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 8, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over applicants prior art. Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,666,136 (Fujishita).

Applicants submit that amended independent claims 1, 8 and 14, as well as new independent claims 20, 24 and 28 are patentable for at least the following reasons.

As recited in claim 1, the image display variably displays image data depending on the value of the parameter reflecting the distance characteristic parameter designated through the operator display. As a result of this feature, listeners can easily recognize the change of an acoustic field when they operate the distance characteristic parameter.

In the applicant's prior art, the amplifier system, which can select DSP modes (“HALL”, “JAZZ”, “ROCK”, or “DISCO” mode), displays a selected mode and a sound source on a display (page 3 and Fig. 13 of the present application). However, the applicant's prior art does not disclose that image data is variably displayed depending on the value of the distance characteristic parameter.

Fujishita discloses an audio system in which a result of an operation by a listener is visually displayed. A position of a seat is displayed as an arrow mark on an image plane (Figs. 18A and 18B). However, Fujishita does not disclose that image data is variably displayed depending on the value of the distance characteristic parameter.

The other independent claims recite a feature substantially similar to that discussed above in connection with claim 1 and are believed patentable for substantially similar reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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